

Fitzgerald (Victoria) of Jacksonville, Florida; six grandchildren—Wayne Tolbert, Daniel Tolbert, and Dylan Tolbert of Three Rivers, Michigan and Jessica Tolbert, Brittany Marie Tolbert, and Joshua Tolbert of Jacksonville, Florida; four sisters—Mary Ella Bender of Montgomery, Alabama, Ethel Crenshaw (John) of Chicago, Illinois, Helen Tinker of Chereville, Indiana, and Wilma Abrams (Walter) of North Chicago, Illinois; a host of nieces and nephews; a very special friend, Dr. Leroy Shelton; adopted parents, Dr. W.G. and Mary Terry; his wonderful and loving Bethel Church Family; and a countless number of friends.

CONGRATULATING JUDGE COLIE  
NICHOLS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 2004*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Judge Colie Nichols, Jr., on his retirement from the Santa Rosa County Courthouse.

Colie Nichols was born in Graceville, Florida on February 5, 1935 to the proud parents Colie, Sr. and Gladys Nichols. In 1955, he married Freida King and had three children, Rod, Stan, and Garth. After earning his Bachelor's of Science degree at Florida State University in 1959, Colie went on to become a probation and parole supervisor for the next eight years.

In 1973 Governor Reuben Askew appointed Colie Nichols for County Judge, and for the last thirty years Judge Nichols has been a fixture on the bench. Since 1982 he has been re-elected without opposition and now a state age limitation for judges is forcing the 69-year-old to retire this year.

His retirement is the ending of an era, an era in which any profession could be a means into the judicial sector. Judge Nichols was not an attorney, yet excelled at providing justice for all in his courtroom.

Even though Judge Nichols was busy as an overseer of justice, he also remained active in his community. He was a member of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Criminal Justice, a member of Alcoholism Rehabilitation Advisory Subcouncil, First Vice-President of the Florida Conference of County Judges, President of the Milton Lions Club, President of the United Way of Santa Rosa County, and many other educational and community centered organizations.

Today, I salute a man who has dedicated his life to protecting freedom, ensuring liberty, and defending the principles of this country. His exemplary service has guaranteed that the United States will continue to prosper as the world's greatest nation.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to congratulate Judge Colie Nichols, Jr. on his retirement and wish him many more years of success and happiness.

CAFTA

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 2004*

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, during my nearly two decades in Congress, our country has made major efforts throughout the world to develop the growth and success of democratic governments. Because of our efforts in Central America over the years, the specter of Communism has receded and the democracies and economies of El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras are beginning to flourish. These countries have now had at least three peaceful changes of government through elections. I think we in this body should be proud of the part we have played in their success.

Mr. Speaker, much of this success is due to opening up trade between the U.S. and Central America. With the Caribbean Basin Initiative, we have helped build growing economies based on trade with the United States. More prosperity in CBI countries leads to more successful democratic governments in this hemisphere and more prosperity and security here at home.

At the present time we are undertaking a similar mission in the Middle East. Increasing democracy and freedom in that region is vital to the war on terrorism and America's security. However, we must not let our focus on Iraq and Afghanistan cause us to forget the work that remains to be done to strengthen our neighbors in Central America. We have come too far to abandon them now.

Five Central American nations and the Dominican Republic have negotiated a free trade agreement with the United States that, despite concerns voiced by some in this country, is beneficial to all concerned. The presidents of the Central American nations have approved this agreement and these nations are now waiting for us to join them in making the Central American Free Trade Agreement a reality.

Mr. Speaker, as we continue to divert our attention elsewhere, time is running out for our legislature to approve DR-CAFTA. Without this agreement, the democracies we have helped build in Central America will be less prosperous in the increasingly competitive global marketplace. Unless we allow these fledgling democracies the access they need to compete with the rising tide of Chinese imports, they will be more likely to revert to corrupt regimes that base their existence on trade in illegal drugs instead of trade in goods and services.

It would be a tragedy to abandon our Central American neighbors now. We in this body have done so much to foster democracy and economic stability in Central America—we cannot allow them to fail at this crucial moment. I urge my colleagues to support DR-CAFTA and I urge the House leadership to bring it to the floor for a vote this year.

HONORING OWENSBORO SOUTHERN  
LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 2004*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Owensboro Southern Little League Baseball Team for their remarkable season and recent participation in the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. They demonstrated great sportsmanship before a national audience, representing competitive values that make Kentucky proud.

The hours of extra practice under the leadership of Manager Vic Evans, Jr. brought this impressive distinction to the State of Kentucky and City of Owensboro. I want my colleagues in the House of Representatives to know of the pride that I have in representing these athletes and their families.

I would like to commend Owensboro Southern for their magnificent season—an effort that epitomized team work, sportsmanship, and persistence. I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating these young athletes for their achievement and wish them continued success in seasons to come.

IN HONOR OF DAVID W. HOLMES

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 2004*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to David W. Holmes for his twenty years of service as a SCORE Counselor in Delaware. Dr. Holmes, born and raised in Fremont, Ohio, earned a Bachelor's degree from Amherst College and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Michigan. After completing his education, Dr. Holmes began what would become a thirty-seven year career with the Dupont Company.

During the course of his career with the Dupont Company, Dr. Holmes took on assignments in research, sales, and manufacturing. In addition, he spent his final twenty years with the company handling senior management responsibilities in manufacturing and worldwide sales. Upon his retirement from Dupont, Dr. Holmes spent three years working in the small business world. It was during these three years that he was able to gain valuable experience in various different business environments, from the small to the very large.

In 1983, Dr. Holmes joined SCORE (Service Corp of Retired Executives). SCORE, an organization that counsels the small business community, is staffed entirely by volunteers. These volunteers give their time and energy to assist others in both starting up and effectively operating small businesses. Specifically, Dr. Holmes' service to SCORE and the small business community has centered around counseling, training and information sessions for small businesses throughout the State of Delaware. He has assisted with entrepreneurial educational projects and presented a plethora of business training workshops.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Dr. Holmes on reaching the tremendous milestone of twenty years of volunteer service with